

What is claimed is:

1. A zoom lens system comprising, in order from an object side to an image side:

a 1st lens unit with positive optical power, the first lens unit consisting of one lens element;

a 2nd lens unit with negative optical power;

a 3rd lens unit with positive optical power; and

a 4th lens unit with positive optical power;

wherein the 1st lens unit and the 3rd lens unit move so as to be located closer to the object side at the telephoto end than the wide-angle end, and the following conditions are satisfied:

$$1.0 < |M_1/M_2| < 7.0$$

$$2.0 < |M_3/M_2| < 8.0$$

where M_1 , M_2 and M_3 are the maximum amounts of movement of the 1st lens unit, 2nd lens unit and 3rd lens unit in the direction of the optical axis during zooming from the wide-angle end to the telephoto end, respectively.

2. The zoom lens system according to claim 1, wherein the 2nd lens unit consists of two negative lens elements and one positive lens element.

3. The zoom lens system according to claim 1, wherein further the following condition is satisfied:

$$0.7 < |f_2/\sqrt{f_w \cdot f_t}| < 1.0$$

where f_w and f_t are the focal lengths of the entire

zoom lens system at the wide-angle end and telephoto end, respectively, and f_2 is the focal length of the 2nd lens unit.

4. The zoom lens system according to claim 1, wherein further the following condition is satisfied:

$$0.6 < (\beta_{3t} \cdot f_w) / (\beta_{3w} \cdot f_t) < 1.2$$

where f_w and f_t are the focal lengths of the entire zoom lens system at the wide-angle end and telephoto end, respectively, and β_{3w} and β_{3t} are the lateral magnifications at the wide-angle end and telephoto end of the 3rd lens unit when focused at an object at infinity, respectively.

5. The zoom lens system according to claim 1, wherein the 4th lens unit is moved to perform focusing.

6. The zoom lens system according to claim 1, wherein the 3rd lens unit includes one or more aspherical surfaces.

7. The zoom lens system according to claim 1, wherein the 4th lens unit includes one or more aspherical surfaces.

8. The zoom lens system according to claim 1, wherein further the following condition is satisfied:

$$0.9 < f_3 / \sqrt{f_w \cdot f_t} < 1.5$$

where f_w and f_t are the focal lengths of the entire zoom lens system at the wide-angle end and telephoto end, respectively, and f_3 is the focal length of the 3rd lens unit.

9. The zoom lens system according to claim 1, wherein both surfaces on the object side and the image side of the lens element constituting the 1st lens unit are spherical, and further the following condition is satisfied:

$$0.75 < (R_b + R_a) / (R_b - R_a) < 1.2$$

where R_a and R_b are the radii of curvature of the both surfaces, respectively.

10. The zoom lens system according to claim 1; wherein the zoom lens system forms an image on a solid image-pickup element.

11. A camera comprising:
 - the zoom lens system according to claim 1; and
 - a solid image-pickup element which receives an image formed by the zoom lens system.